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Library Publishes Latest Volume of *Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774–1789*

View of colonial Philadelphia, site of the Continental Congress. Detail of engraving by Thomas Jeffreys in A General Typography of North America and the West Indies, *published by R. Sayer, London, 1768.*

The Library of Congress has just published the latest volume in its projected 25-volume series containing the complete correspondence of the 343 delegates who attended the Continental Congresses during the American Revolution.

Volume 16 of *Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774–1789* covers the period between September 1780 through February 1781—a time witnessing the climax of a series of crises that lead to several fundamental continental changes. In the military sphere, Gen. Horatio Gates was relieved of command of the southern department and replaced by Gen. Nathanael Greene in the aftermath of the loss of the Carolinas. Gen. Benedict Arnold's treasonous attempt to deliver West Point to the enemy was thwarted, and the

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Pennsylvania regiments stationed in New Jersey mutinied in January, presenting Congress with its most serious crisis with the army.

Problems of military administration also forced a reorganization of the Continental Army, and the states' inability to meet their fiscal quotas resulted in the adoption of a new combination of in-kind and specie requisitions to keep the army supplied. Continued state failure to remit funds also led Congress to request authority to levy a five percent duty on foreign imports and prize goods—an attempt to amend the Articles of Confederation even before they were formally ratified on March 1, 1781.

A frustrating congressional investigation of the treasury department was launched in the autumn of 1780 to attempt to solve chronic fiscal problems, but it had little impact beyond fueling the movement for general administrative reform, culminating in the decision to create executive departments. Congress accordingly authorized the appointment of a secretary for foreign affairs in January 1781, and on February 7 resolved to appoint a superintendent of finance, and secretaries of war and marine, though none of the posts was actually filled for months.

The volume contains documents that scholars will find revealing on many significant subjects. These include the hitherto unidentified minutes of the treasury inquiry committee, which held a dozen sessions in October and November, interrogating nearly three dozen witnesses on charges leveled at the commissioners of the treasury and of the chambers of accounts.

An even larger number of documents was produced by the committee appointed to respond to the mutiny of the Pennsylvania Line, and several pertain to the extension of half-pay benefits for officers and to the new arrangement of the Continental Army ordered in October. Other items bear on such issues as the appointment of a minister to Russia and a special envoy to France, as well as the continuing problem of Vermont independence. In addition, the long, acrimonious dispute between North Carolina delegate Thomas Burke and New Hampshire delegate John Sullivan comes to a conclusion. This is seen in the correspondence of New York delegate Alexander McDougall who as a "second" to General Sullivan finally arranged a resolution of the feud without the necessity of a duel.

The editors of the *Letters* project, Paul H. Smith, Gerard W. Gawalt, and Ronald M. Gephart, have drawn upon more than 22,000 documents assembled from hundreds of institutions and private individuals from all over America and western Europe. In the work of collecting this store of information, they have had the assistance of dozens of devoted librarians, archivists, and private collectors. They have attempted to present all the extant documents written by the delegates during their periods of attendance in Congress.

The publication of this material began in 1976 with a generous grant from the Ford Foundation. It supersedes the 60-year-old *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress* prepared in eight volumes by Edmund C. Burnett.

Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774–1789 is available by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, or in person from the Library of Congress Sales Shops in the Thomas Jefferson and James Madison Memorial Buildings. Volume 16 (804 p.) sells for $38 (cite stock number 030-000-00200-8 when ordering by mail). Previous volumes, at various prices, are still available from the Superintendent of Documents.

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Bruce Tapper, Editor

The Library of Congress observes
TWO HUNDRED YEARS
Congress

Congress Bicentennial Programs

Exhibition

Opening September 29, **"To Make All Laws": The Congress of the United States, 1789–1989** is a comprehensive exhibition on the history of the Congress during the past 200 years, reviewing major achievements and legislative issues. Features rare historical documents, portraits, recordings, political cartoons, and videotapes illustrating the role of Congress in American life.

Madison Gallery, to February 18, 1990.

Publishing and Readership in Revolutionary France and America: A Symposium at the Library of Congress

The significance of the printed word in the French Revolution is evidenced in this detail of a 1792 allegorical Jacobin acquatint, La Révolution française, *by Duplessis. (Library of Congress collections.) Among authors whose writings are shown are (from left) Desmoulins, Prudhome, Mably, Voltaire, Raynal, Rousseau, and Marat. Note symbols of royal and ecclesiastical authority being carted away (above right).*

The publishing and reading of books, newspapers, pamphlets, and other printed materials during the revolutionary eras of France and America were examined at a major symposium at the Library of Congress, May 2-3. Specialists from the academic, legal, library, and publishing professions presented papers at the event, which was sponsored by the Center for the Book and the European Division.

The symposium was organized to commemorate the bicentennial of the French Revolution, an event with which the history of the Library of Congress is connected in the following significant ways. Thomas Jefferson, the principal founder and inspiration for the collections of the Library of Congress, was a noted figure in both the French and American struggles for liberty and constitutional government. The Library's collections include one of Lafayette's drafts of the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen* annotated by Jefferson at Lafayette's request. Jefferson was known for his library and, in particular, his extensive acquisition and voracious reading of French publications. While in Paris as America's second minister to France from 1784 to 1789 Jefferson nearly doubled his already notable library by acquiring French publications. The high proportion of French materials in his library was remarked on by Congress when it acquired the library in 1815. This library served as the foundation of the Library of Congress.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and His Excellency

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Symposium *(Cont. from p. 283)*
Emmanuel de Margerie, Ambassador of France to the United States, opened the symposium by citing the importance of the study of the roles of reading, writing, and libraries in the French and American Revolutions. The developments of electronic publishing and other media in our own era have demonstrated the relationships between changes in communication systems and changes in social, political, and cultural systems, they remarked.

John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, thanked the ambassador for the support of the French government in bringing the French scholars to participate in the symposium. Carol Armbruster, French/Italian area specialist in the European Division and organizer of the symposium, moderated the panels.

The primary theme of the symposium was that publishing and readership played significant roles in the mobilization of the populations of late 18th-century France and America in their break with traditional political orders and establishment of new ones. What those roles were, how they developed, and how they brought on cultural as well as political revolutions were among the themes of the papers presented during the two-day symposium.

The first session, "The Changing World of Publishing in Late 18th- and Early 19th-Century France and America," encompassed presentations in the categories of publishing as a profession and publishing and the law.

□ ***Publishing as a profession.*** From the 17th century to the 19th, no significant technological developments occurred in the printing profession. Yet, major changes occurred in publishing as a profession in late 18th-century France and America.

As an example of these changes and their effect, Robert Darnton of Princeton University used the 1770 publication of Holbach's *Système de la nature* by the Swiss Société Typographique de Neuchâtel as a case study to describe the economics of clandestine publishing of French books by pirate houses in Switzerland, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Professor Darnton attributed to these books a major role in the diffusion of the enlightenment and the ideological origins of the French Revolution.

Roger Chartier

Lynn Hunt (left), Michael Warner, and David Hall

Daniel Roche of the Université de Paris I described how historians have challenged the notion of a fundamental link between the enlightenment and the revolution and questioned the ties between intellectual works and political breaking points. He called for greater focus on the way in which a political revolution and a break from a social order brought about a cultural revolution and affected the way in which a culture was transmitted.

The way print culture spread in America, according to Larzer Ziff of Johns Hopkins University, was related to issues of political representation in a republic. Using the example of Benjamin Franklin, he described the shift away from a

manner of writing that implied the author as an authority figure toward a manner that implied the author as a representative of the readers.

Jeffery A. Smith of the University of Iowa described the ideology of early American journalism and its role in promoting the American Revolution, the Constitution, and the Federalist and Republican programs of the 1790s.

☐ ***Publishing and the law.*** "Books require protection in order to exist," was the conclusion of Carla Hesse of Rutgers University, who examined the effects of the deregulation by the French revolutionaries of the printing and publishing world of Old Regime France. The destructive results of deregulation for book production called into question the means by which the revolutionary ideal of a free and enlightened republic might best be achieved.

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie (left) and James H. Billington

James Gilreath of the Library of Congress described how American printers, empowered politically and economically by the revolution, the Constitution, and then the national copyright act, soon faced difficulties. These were created by structural changes in the printing and publishing professions, new larger markets, and the power of wealthy private interests which were not dependent on public opinion.

Focusing on both the rhetoric and policy of the first French and U.S. copyright laws (1790), Jane Ginsburg of Columbia Law School questioned traditional interpretations that they had differing principles and goals. She said that the French considered copyright as the natural right of creators, emphasizing protection of the creators' property right. Their view was, however, affected by a utilitarian ethic more often associated with the Anglo-American copyright tradition, which sought to protect authors' rights in order to stimulate production of intellectual creations for a public benefit. Conversely, Americans were not uninterested in the protection of the property rights of creators.

An evening public lecture, "The Study of the Book in France," was presented by French historian Roger Chartier of the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales.

Professor Chartier described the evolution of studies of the book in France during the past 40 years. He concentrated on the history of the book as a discipline, *histoire du livre,* as it was conceived in *The Coming of the Book* (*L'Apparition du livre,* 1958) and as it has evolved since. The characteristics of French publishing have recently been the focus of much study and have resulted in the multiauthored history of publishing in France, the four-volume *Histoire de l'édition française.* A companion series looking at the history of libraries, *Histoire des bibliothèques françaises* is currently in progress.

British and American projects to publish similar collaborative, multivolume histories of British and American books were also discussed. Ian Willison, former head of Rare Books at the British Library, and David Hall, chair of the American Antiquarian Society Program in the History of the Book in American Culture, briefly described these projects.

Session Two of the symposium, "Readership in France and America in the late 18th and Early 19th Centuries," centered on the subject areas of forms of readership, and collecting and using materials.

☐ ***Forms of readership.*** Marked changes occurred in readership during the revolutionary eras on both sides of the Atlantic. Jack Censer of George Mason University said the creation of a new, broader-based readership in France was associated with a huge increase in the production of the French periodical press. He also considered the relationship of this phenomenon with the rise of an independent journalism less interested in passively expressing public opinion than in actively forming it.

Roger Chartier discussed the question of whether the origins of the French Revolution should be attributed to the distribution of "philosophical texts" during the 18th century. This would assume that the act of reading was a passive reception of the messages of a text rather than a free and creative activity—the latter being a basic premise of his *histoire de la lecture* (history of reading) approach. He thought it might be

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Symposium *(Cont. from p. 285)*
necessary to examine whether an overall change in reading habits and printed matter in general had made the radical break with the old order possible.

Lynn Hunt of the University of Pennsylvania expanded the scope of the discussion to consider visual and verbal forms of representation. Unlike the Americans, French authorities devoted considerable energy to revolutionary propaganda through signs and symbols. However, the uncertain power of images—often feminine allegories of power—was felt to require definition by verbal (printed) means. Revolutionaries tended to value the verbal over the visual as a more reliable conveyer of messages, she said.

David Hall of Boston University said he felt that it seemed somewhat implausible, in the light of the actual history of book production, to argue that a revolution in print occurred in late 18th-century America via either appeals to the republican reader represented in revolutionary pamphlet series or via the coming of the age of fiction. He said that there was continuity in the structure of a Protestant popular culture and its particular traditions of literacy that suggest that this print culture was neither elitist, hierarchically structured prior to the revolution, nor radically changed because of it.

Citing the newspaper correspondence during the Philadelphia yellow fever crisis of 1793, David Paul Nord of Indiana University noted that reading the newspaper and writing to it in a late 18th-century American city served a public purpose for its citizens. He described readership as a form of active citizenship.

Michael Warner of Northwestern University proposed "republicanism" as a term to describe a manner of reading during the American Revolution which can be understood by examining both the public's perception of the role of print materials and its assumptions about public participation in politics and community affairs. The relationship between the public and printed matter is not fixed, he said, but must be considered according to differing cultural and historical contexts.

☐ ***Collecting and using materials.*** French revolutionaries who felt themselves to be the offspring of the enlightenment, as it was disseminated through print, sacralized the book and even wanted to put Gutenberg in the Pantheon.

"The French Revolution was the revolution of books par excellence," declared Henri-Jean Martin of the Ecole nationale des chartes. He described the major commitments made early in the revolution to preserving the books that made up the cultural heritage of France. More than 10 million volumes were impounded or confiscated from libraries throughout France, including ecclesiastical, municipal, and private libraries, in order to establish a national collection and a national bibliography. Unfortunately, the enormous scale of the expense and the tasks of processing and distributing these collections led later to the abandonment of the projects and many of the materials that had been impounded. In a few libraries in Paris, including the Bibliothèque nationale, the national literary heritage was better collected and preserved than it had been under the Old Regime, but the abandonment of book repositories in the provinces led to major losses of that same heritage.

Marcus McCorison of the American Antiquarian Society described the American tradition of collecting books based on cultural traditions rooted in the Old World but also adapted to new ways of dealing with the intellectual and physical requirements of a new world. American libraries were constituted with the building of a new nation in mind, he observed. He described how the revolutionary printer Isaiah Thomas set out to preserve the materials used and worked upon by the citizens of the new republic. Thomas' library became the foundation of the library of the American Antiquarian Society.

The remarkable range of subjects and languages in Thomas Jefferson's library played a fundamental role in his participation in the activities of revolutionary France and America, according to Douglas Wilson of Knox College. Jefferson came to defend those very characteristics of his library when Congress challenged

Henri-Jean Martin (left) and Ian Willison.

the need for such materials in a library of Congress. The extraordinary profusion and scope of French books were particularly questioned at that time when America sought to disengage itself from Anglo-French controversies at the conclusion of the War of 1812. Jefferson finally persuaded Congress that such a library was necessary for the work of the United States Congress.

The final session of the symposium, "Contemporary Issues in the French and American Book and Publishing Communities," focused on copyright issues, the relation between the nation state and the book, and national libraries.

☐ ***Copyright.*** Turning from the focus on the past to consider current issues, Jane Ginsburg (standing in for Vincent Brugère-Trelat of the Syndicat national de l'édition) and Ralph Oman, Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress, described the current challenges to both French and American copyright laws brought on by new technologies. New ways of creating, exploiting, and using books and data allow users to bypass publishing houses, printers, and distributors—the traditional focus of copyright enforcement, they said. Electronic publishing and high-speed worldwide distribution of materials have enormous implications for the national libraries of both France and the United States.

☐ ***National Libraries.*** Maintaining traditional collections and services and adapting to new ones provided by technology are major challenges for the libraries of both nations.

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Administrateur général, Bibliothèque nationale, outlined the challenges France faces in building a new, national, all-electronic library, the Bibliothèque de France.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington described how current transition efforts at the Library of Congress are aimed at preserving concepts of Jefferson's library—the need for a universal collection in a range of languages and formats—and a change in organizational concepts which allows for improved access to all materials regardless of format.

—Carol Armbruster

STAFF NEWS

Diane Kresh Promoted

Diane Nester Kresh has been promoted to the position of assistant chief of the Collections Management Division. She will assist the division chief in administrative functions and in developing and recommending policy for service, improvement, maintenance, and preservation of the collections.

Ms. Kresh received a bachelor of arts degree in speech and drama in 1976 and a master of library science in 1980, both from Catholic University.

She began her career at the Library as a reading room assistant in 1974, and went on to work as a deck attendant in the former Stack and Reader Division; searcher-filer in the Catalog Publication Division; shelflist trainee in the Subject Cataloging Division; copyright examiner in the Literary Section of the Copyright Office; intern in the Library of Congress Intern Program; administrative assistant detailee in the Administrative Detail Program; reference librarian in the General Reading Rooms Division; head of Collections Improvement for Collections Management; and, most recently, public service officer in that division.

She has served as editor of the Library of Congress Professional Association newsletter, and is currently chair of the Managing/Lending Work Module in the Library's Collections Services Transition Team. She is also a Library management representative in the present negotiation of a new contract between the Library and AFSCME 2477.

In her 15 years at the Library, Ms. Kresh has received letters of commendation, Meritorious Service Awards, Outstanding Performance Ratings, and a Superior Service Award.

Update on the Hispanic Cultural Society

The Library of Congress Hispanic Cultural Society was formed in September 1988 for the purpose of promoting the knowledge and enjoyment of Hispanic culture among Library employees.

In its first year, the society's activities have included a welcoming coffee reception for Ben Benitez, the new director of personnel; *tertulias* (seminars) featuring expert speakers on various aspects of Iberian and Latin American history and culture; and a members' reception.

Plans are now under way for formation of a discussion group—"Café com Livros"—which will focus on the works of Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American authors.

The Hispanic Cultural Society also publishes a newsletter, *Hoja Volante*, which includes short articles on topics related to Hispanic culture as well as news about the society's activities.

Staff Carpool Locator

Rider seeks to join carpool or vanpool from Kettering/Largo area, Upper Marlboro, Md. Schedule is 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call Kay Eisinger, ext. 76203.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Thursday, August 24
☐ "Delegating," a videotape presentation. Management Forum, LC Professional Association (LCPA). Room LM 654A, 12:10 p.m.

Wednesday, August 30
☐ WRA Talent Show, "Re-search for Stars." Coolidge Auditorium, 12 noon.

Tuesday, September 5
☐ "Bulgarian Village Music," Pam Terry, visual art examiner, Copyright Office. LCPA. Room LM 642, 12:10 p.m.

Thursday, September 7
☐ "The Country Studies Book Program," Martha Hopkins, senior technical editor, and Richard Nyrop, handbook production specialist, both of the Federal Research Division. LCPA. Room LM 642, 11:30 a.m.

Friday, September 8
☐ "A Passion for Liberty: Alexis de Tocqueville on Democracy and Revolution," exhibition opens. (Runs through October 29.) Great Hall, Jefferson Building.

Tuesday, September 12
☐ "Castles and Kings: Architecture of Royal Ethiopia," Laverle Berry, bibliographer, Copyright Office. LCPA. Room LM 642, 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 13
☐ "New Challenges to Human Rights in Latin America," Alexander Wilde, Washington Office on Latin America. Library of Congress Hispanic Cultural Society. Room LM 139, 12 noon.

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